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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

A development strategy for island developing countries: new challenges, prospects and opportunities for cooperative action

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the submission of the summaries of replies from individual countries, international organizations and intergovernmental organizations in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/227/Add.1), the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has received further responses, which are summarized below.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

Austria

2. Austria has been conducting and continuously elaborating a development cooperation programme with Cape Verde since the early 1980s. A great variety of intensive contacts have been pursued, especially in the fields of education, the labour market, health, financial administration, telecommunications and autonomous rural development, through the creation of electricity, water and telephone networks. An integrated agricultural project in the region of Santa Cruz dealing with all economic, social and environmental aspects of agricultural production has also been implemented. The action undertaken by Austria comprises bilateral as well as multilateral measures and also includes the intervention of non-governmental organizations through the granting of technical assistance, supply of investment goods and food aid.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. United Nations bodies and programmes

1. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. During the period from April 1992 to April 1994, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, acting as secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee has pursued multilateral and interdisciplinary activities aimed at the promotion of economic and social development in the Caribbean subregion, with the preparation of annual reviews of the economic performance of the countries of the subregion and the convening of meetings of experts, including managers and planners, and specialists in social development.

4. The efforts of the ECLAC subregional headquarters have also focused on the development of a plan of action for science and technology in the Caribbean, on issues affecting women engaged in selected activities in the Caribbean and on problems affecting public sector services. Activities continued in the area of population and development with support from the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) and financial assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Those activities, which include training seminars and workshops, were related to the designation of population coordinators in national population units and to the formulation of national population policies in the general context of sustainable economic development.

5. Assistance was provided to member countries of the subregion in the preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The subregional headquarters continued to provide technical support to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in its efforts to achieve closer political union among the countries of the region. It also continued to seek the collaboration of other United Nations offices and other Caribbean regional organizations in executing its work programme.

6. In addition, technical assistance projects covering a wide range of areas have also been implemented at the country level in the island developing countries of the subregion.

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

7. Among its 19 island members and associate members in the Pacific and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, ESCAP gives high priority in its work programmes to the six island developing countries that belong to the group of least developed countries (five Pacific islands and the Maldives). The ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre at Port Vila has since 1984 carried out a large number of technical assistance activities for the benefit of Pacific island countries and the Maldives. The work programme of the two special bodies established by the Commission on the least developed and land-locked developing countries, and the Pacific island developing countries, respectively, cover, inter alia, the promotion of island trade and investment, the enhancement of intra- and inter-island regional cooperation, the facilitation of island transport and shipping, and the development of island human resources. Other measures implemented by ESCAP for the benefit of island developing countries include the establishment of the Pacific Trust Fund in 1989 and the organization of study tours within the framework of the orientation and training programme for Pacific island countries.

C. Intergovernmental organizations

Asian Development Bank

8. ADB places heavy emphasis on technical assistance operations in the Pacific region, which includes 12 developing member countries, in particular through its South Pacific Regional Office based at Port Vila. The Bank's technical assistance programme has been formulated in line with the development objectives of member countries in addressing their widespread institutional and manpower requirements. As part of its enlarged role, the Regional Office has prepared Pacific island economic reports for some selected island developing countries and has undertaken sector studies providing effective inputs towards policy

formulation and planning. Loans and technical assistance grants extended to the Pacific island developing member countries of the Bank during the period from 1992 to 1993 totalled $88.6 million and $10.3 million, respectively.